



# THE COG

Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Lutterworth

**Issue No: 190**

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## December '20 Newsletter

**Programme for the next two months.**

### **Speaker Finder Grace & Thanks**

#### **December**

Monday	7th	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>postponed</b>
Monday	14th	<b>Christmas Lunch</b>	<b>postponed</b>
Monday	21st	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>
Monday	28th	<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	<b>No Meeting</b>

#### **January '21**

Monday	4th	Normal Meeting	David Ayres	Sally Hollis
Monday	11th	Normal Meeting	Anne Baker	Graham Johnson
Thursday	14th	Council Meeting	7-30 p.m.	
Monday	18th	Business Meeting		
Monday	25th	7-30 p.m. meeting with Wycliffe		

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **John Howell** Tel: 01455 553209 email sheila.m.howell@hotmail.co.uk

## Winston Churchill

30th November 1874—24th January 1965

Mark Thompson - on 26th October - read a chapter from "The early life of Churchill" by Andrew Robertson.

Much has been written on his War Years but missing out his early life from 1874 - 1895.

Churchill was born on the 30th November 1874 at his family's ancestral home in Oxfordshire, Blenheim Palace. They were direct descendants of the Dukes of Marlborough so his family were among the highest levels of the British aristocracy. His father,



Lord Randolph Churchill, had been elected Conservative MP for Woodstock in 1873. His mother Jennie was a daughter of Leonard Jerome a wealthy American businessman. In 1876, Churchill's paternal grandfather, John Spencer Churchill, was appointed Viceroy of Ireland, then part of the UK, Randolph became his private secretary and the family relocated to Dublin. Winston's brother Jack was born there in 1880.

Throughout much of the 1880's Randolph and Jennie were effectively estranged and the brothers were mostly cared for by their nanny, Elizabeth Everest. Churchill later wrote "she had been my dearest and most intimate friend during the whole of my first twenty years". Churchill began boarding at St George's School in Ascot, Berkshire, at age 7 but was not academic and his behaviour was poor. In 1884 he transferred to Brunswick School in Hove where his academic performance improved. In April 1888 now aged 13, he narrowly passed the entrance exam for Harrow School. His father wanted him to prepare for a military career and so his last three years at Harrow were in the army form. After two unsuccessful attempts to gain admittance to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst he succeeded on his third. He was accepted as a cadet in the cavalry, starting in September 1893.

## **Major John David Berry 1918 –2011**

Rose Chapman gave us a most interesting account of her father's involvement in the Norwegian campaign during the second world war - on zoom.

Always known as David he was born at Meadow Farm, near Thorpe Langton on 15th October 1918. He attended Market Harborough Grammar School and won the Victor Ledorum Trophy. On leaving school David was employed at W.A. Lea and Son Leicester as a tailor.

At the outbreak of war in September 1939 David enlisted in the 5th Battalion Leicester Regiment, being a serious Radio Ham enthusiast he trained as a signaller.

The Germans had invaded Norway who showed little resistance with the Norwegian Government led by politician Vidkun Quisling. Britain and France became involved planning a Norwegian Campaign for April 1940. David's regiment left Aberdeen arriving in Norway at the port of Andalsnes on April 22nd, but their supply ship SS Cedarbank was sunk by a torpedo just off the Norwegian coast. Now all each soldier had was an ageing Enfield rifle, 50 rounds of ammo and some smoke mortars for a battle against a well-equipped German army.

David's company travelled to the battle zone at Tretten by train. After just one day they were in retreat with some taken prisoner but part of his company escaped. This group split up with David and friends deciding to try to return to Andalsnes. The rest taking a different route through a valley where the majority of these soldiers were captured. Meanwhile David and three friends found a barn where they hid overnight. Going into the farmhouse in the morning they found a sympathetic farmer who fed them and led them to another farm where they were told the British had left the port. The new plan, now with a map of Central Norway and David's compass (from a Christmas cracker) was to go east towards Sweden and freedom. Directed from farm to farm, sometimes able to stay for a few days, their escape had many dangers and some

highlights but always supported by the farming community.

Their extraordinary journey east was over countryside and mountains. Although offered skis they could not manage them. So they often walked at night on frozen snow which was easier in their boots and rested during the day. Now four strong they walked down a river valley where one saw his bundle of clothes float away, these were replaced by another obliging farmer. The next help was from a schoolmaster who loaned them two bikes. Many miles later, two to a bike, they rode downhill at great speed only to crash, but unseen by Germans manning the nearby main road. A few more miles and the Swedish border, where finding a gap in the fencing a fifty-yard dash and safety in a neutral country. Then escorted by Swedish soldiers to a nearby Customs House - ending their incredible escape. Their route home was via northern Finland and a voyage on a ship to Iceland under neutral colours, agreed by the Germans, then to Britain in September 1940.

## **Friendship**

Tom Brown, curate of Lutterworth, Bitteswell and Cotesbach, was invited by Roger Rose to talk to our Rotary on a subject of his choice.

Tom started by briefly introducing himself, born in Liverpool, he went to school in Portsmouth then took a degree in Natural Sciences at Cambridge before his theological training. He was ordained in Leicester Cathedral in July 2019. Having lived and worked in various areas of the country he said that of all the places he had lived he had found the local people here had been the most welcoming and made him feel immediately at home. His talk developed into a discussion into how we had been accepted should we have come to live here from outside the area. Moving on to ask those who had lived and been to school here how they had accepted new comers to the area. By doing this he, (I thought), had got everyone involved into thinking as to what members thought friendship was and how we played our part in making the area of Lutterworth a good place to live in for everyone. For me and I know others it was a very subtle way of introducing us to his subject "Friendship".

## Smile as You Buy

Support **Lutterworth Rotary Club**

Every time you buy goods through  
AMAZON

Amazon will donate 0.5% on all eligible  
purchases to our TRUST ACCOUNT.

Just simply make your purchase  
through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk)

& select **Rotary Club of Lutterworth  
Trust Account** and help our club's  
funds grow.

**WHY WOULDN'T YOU?**

Contact John Roberson for further details.



## **INNER WHEEL NEWS**

March 23rd 2020 and a different world. June White responded to an appeal to make cotton wash bags for NHS workers and then masks requested by friends. Prompting Maria Thompson to research for an approved style of mask and by the end of June she was in mass production hoping to raise money for IW charities by selling them locally. Rachel Johnson, events manager at the Wycliffe Rooms, offered a sales outlet at the Coffee Shop. As a club we had chat sessions on Zoom and a change-over in July with the badge of office driven through Lutterworth from retiring president Sue's home to incoming president Mary's house – a first. We had an actual 'distanced' meeting at the Wycliffe Rooms, a Bring Your Own Picnic in August in Ted & Kay's huge garden, thank you, so good to see members again.

As it was possible for the Wycliffe Rooms, with the Covid-19 compliant space, to be used for various events and lunches the IW mask sales took off. At £4 each, sometimes with an added donation, raising money for The Beacon Project (a new build at Glenfield Hospital) for children and adolescents with mental health problems, CAMHS.

Now November and a total of over £1,000. So a huge thank you to Maria and Rachel and to the many friends and local community who have bought the masks. The money will be used for exercise equipment and special garden planters and tools helping in the recovery of young people in difficult times.

### **For you Golfers**

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport.

"These hills are getting steeper as the years go by", said one.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer, too", one of the others complained.

"The sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember them too" grumbled the third senior.

After hearing enough from his senior pals, the oldest and wisest of the four of them at 87 years old piped up "Just be thankful we're still on the right side of the grass!"

## **In Flanders' Fields**

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row by row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high,  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields.

Major John McCrae 1915

## **100 Club 12th October Draw**

Winners	1st	Graham Johnson	£25
	2nd	Elaine Turner	£15
	3rd	Bridget Hunt	£10

## **History of Christmas Cards**

The first Christmas card was created and sent in 1843. A man named John Calcott Horsely printed the first Christmas card for Sir Henry Cole, the friend who had given him the idea. Sir Henry Cole, a wealthy British businessman, wanted a card he could proudly send to friends and professional acquaintances to wish them a "Merry Christmas". The card depicted a typical English family enjoying the holiday, and people performing acts of charity. An important part of Victorian Christmas spirit. A thousand copies of the card were printed and sold for one shilling .

This is reportedly the first Christmas card to be produced and sold to the public.

**The average person in Britain sends 50 Christmas cards each year.**

## **Champagne cocktail with Cointreau**

A great sparkling Christmas party cocktail.

After you have decorated the champagne flutes, chill them by putting in the freezer for a short while or fill them with ice for a few minutes.

### **Ingredients for four**

1 x egg white  
Sugar - coloured or granulated  
300 ml x white grape juice  
150 ml x cointreau  
75 ml x lime cordial  
750 ml x chilled champagne

### **Method**

#### *Step 1*

Decorate the glasses for an extra special touch.  
Put the egg white and sugar in two separate small bowls. Dip the rims of the glasses in the egg white and then in the sugar so you have an even coating on each glass. Leave to set

#### *Step 2*

Mix grape juice, cointreau and lime juice in a jug  
Chill until needed

#### *Step 3*

Divide the cocktail base between the glasses to about one third of the way up the glass.  
Top up with Champagne or sparkling white wine and serve...



**Delicious!!!**

*By courtesy of Val Cooper*



**Happy Christmas and New Year**

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